

● PRINTER RUSH ●
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application: <u>09 486629</u>	Examiner: <u>Calderola</u>	GAU: <u>1764</u> <u>10-26-05</u>
From: <u>ewc</u>	Location: <u>(DC) FMF FDC</u>	Date: <u>7/8/05</u>
Tracking #: <u>06041210</u>		Week Date: <u>11-15-04</u>

DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS		<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLM	<u>4-27-05</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Document Legibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IIFW	<u>11-05-04</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW		<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW		
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH		
<input type="checkbox"/> 312		
<input type="checkbox"/> SPEC		

[RUSH] MESSAGE:

1) Renumbering of claim set does not match index of claims.

2) Please provide clear copy of PCT 903 form for this file.

Thank you


[XRUSH] RESPONSE:

① New index of claims and renumbered claim set provided.

② 903 form provided.

INITIALS: BJH

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.
REV 10/04

Issue Classification 	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/486,629	CARKEEK, STEPHEN ROBERT	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alexis Wachtel	1764	

ISSUE CLASSIFICATION									
ORIGINAL					CROSS REFERENCE(S)				
CLASS	SUBCLASS				CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)			
428	95				428	118	121	85	101
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION					156	148			
B	3	2	B	33/00					
B	3	2	B	3/20					
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<i>Glenn Wachtel</i> 11-31-04 (Assistant Examiner) (Date)					Glenn Caddarola Supervisory Patent Examiner Technology Center 1700			Total Claims Allowed: 48 31	
<i>Robert Hall</i> 1/16/07 (Legal Instruments Examiner) (Date)					<i>Glenn Caddarola</i> 1/16/07 (Primary Examiner) (Date)			O.G. Print Claim(s) 4	O.G. Print Fig. 1

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant		<input type="checkbox"/> CPA		<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.		<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47	
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
	1		20		61		121
	2		21		62		122
	3		22		63		123
4	4		23		64		124
	5		24		65		125
5	6		25		66		126
1	7		26		67		127
	8		27		68		128
6	9		28		69		129
7	10		29		70		130
2	11		30		71		131
8	12		31		72		132
3	13		32		73		133
9	14		33		74		134
	15		34		75		135
	16		35		76		136
10	17				77		137
11	18		36		78		138
	19		37		79		139
12	20				80		140
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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/486,629

Examiner

Alexis Wachtel

Applicant(s)

CARKEEK, STEPHEN ROBERT

Art Unit

1764

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address—

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amd filed 9-27-04. *18-46, 48+49*
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,6,7,9-14, 17, 18, 20, 23-26 and 28-49.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A table or counter mat according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ ¹³ wherein the nitrile rubber is in the range of less than 2 mm thick with a ~~density~~ weight per unit area of about 1000 grams per square meter.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim ~~6~~ ⁵ (currently amended): A table or counter mat according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ ³ ~~13~~ wherein the intermediate layer is formed from a non-woven polyester.

Claim ~~7~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising:

a top textile surface layer;

a non-slip backing layer;

and an intermediate stabilization and support layer aiding joining and support of the top textile surface layer to the non-slip backing layer while allowing the top textile surface layer of the resultant mat to be absorbent;

the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber curable at temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water;

the intermediate stabilization and support layer is formed from a non-woven polyester, and

the top textile surface layer is a non-woven polyester with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimeters, with the intermediate stabilization and support layer and the top textile surface layer combined with the non-slip backing layer ~~forming~~ providing a top liquid absorbent textile of less than 4 millimeters which is continuous and consistent and maintains relative position for printing a detailed image thereon and maintaining position to display the detailed image.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim ~~9~~ ⁶ (currently amended): A table or counter mat according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ ³ ~~13~~ wherein the textile marking is formed by a sublimation textile printing process.

Claim ~~10~~ ⁷ (previously presented): A table or counter mat according to claim ~~9~~ ⁶ wherein the sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

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Claim ²~~11~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising:
a non-slip backing layer;
a top liquid absorbent textile surface; and
an intermediate stabilization and pile support layer joining the backing layer
according to claim 10 the textile surface and aiding support of the textile surface, with the
textile surface having a pile height less than 7 millimeters adapted for resting cups, mugs
or glasses and for retaining an element of absorbency, wherein the resultant mat is readily
able to be laundered, wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from rubber, wherein
the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber, wherein the intermediate
stabilization and pile support layer comprises a heat curable material curable at
temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C such that the mat is able
to be laundered in hot water, wherein the textile surface includes a textile marking
providing a coloring, a print or an advertising message viewable from above, wherein the
textile marking is formed by a sublimation textile printing process, wherein the
sublimation printing occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such
that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water, wherein the top liquid absorbent textile
surface is formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7
millimeters.

Claim ⁸~~12~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat according to claim ³~~[[8]] 13~~
wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface.

Claim ³~~13~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising:

a non-slip backing layer;
a top liquid absorbent textile surface; and
an intermediate stabilization and pile support layer joining the backing layer
according to claim 13 the textile surface and aiding support of the textile surface, with the
textile surface having a pile height less than 7 millimeters adapted for resting cups, mugs
or glasses and for retaining an element of absorbency, wherein the resultant mat is readily
able to be laundered, wherein the non-slip backing layer is formed from rubber, wherein
the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber, wherein the intermediate

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stabilization and pile support layer comprises a heat curable material curable at temperatures greater than 100°C and preferably at about 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water, wherein the textile surface includes a textile marking providing a coloring, a print or an advertising message viewable from above, wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface, wherein the textile surface has a density weight per unit area of about 600 grams per square meter.

Claim ⁹~~14~~ (previously presented): A table or counter mat according to claim ³~~13~~ wherein the textile marking is formed by an acid dye process.

Claims 15 and 16 (canceled).

Claim ¹⁰~~17~~ (currently amended): A method of forming a table or counter mat including:

- a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer;
- b) forming a top textile surface layer by combining a non-woven polyester fabric with a non-woven polyester stabilization and pile support fabric; and
- c) aligning the top and backing layers and compressing the layered materials by a heated platen for selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings according to claim 16 cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing layer to the top textile surface layer;
wherein the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the table or counter mat being liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid, wherein the curing and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing layer to the top textile surface layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water.

Claim ¹¹~~18~~ (currently amended): A method of forming a table or counter mat according to claim 16 further including:

- a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer;
- b) forming a top textile surface layer by combining a non-woven polyester fabric with a non-woven polyester stabilization and pile support fabric;
- c) aligning the top and backing layers and compressing the layered materials by a heated platen for selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings to cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing layer to the top textile surface layer;

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wherein the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the table or counter mat being liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid; and

providing a sublimation printing process by placing a screen printed or digital image printed paper which carries the required design on the top textile surface layer with print face down and activating a heat platen to press the screen printed or digital image printed paper to the top textile surface layer under a selected heat, pressure and time duration.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim ~~20~~¹² (currently amended): A method of forming a table or counter mat including:

- a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer;
- b) forming a top textile surface layer which is non-tufted and is continuous and has a density and a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimetres able to be printed thereon by sublimation printing;
- c) aligning the top and backing layers;
- d) compressing the aligned materials by a heated platen for a selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings according to claim 19 cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing to the top textile layer so that the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel and the table or counter mat is liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid;

wherein the curing and bonding of the nitrile rubber backing to the top textile surface layer occurs at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water;

- e) placing a screen printed, offset or digital image print paper which carries a detailed image on the top textile layer surface of the bonded resultant table or counter mat with print face down; and

- f) activating a heat platen to press the screen printed, offset or digital image print paper to the top textile surface layer under selected heat, pressure and time duration and at greater than 100°C and preferably greater than 170°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water, with the top supported textile surface layer bonded with the backing layer forming a top liquid absorbent textile of less than 4 millimeters which is continuous and consistent and maintains relative position for printing the detailed image

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thereon and maintaining position to display the detailed image, with the top textile surface layer formed by a non-woven non tufted polyester and an intermediate layer of a non-woven polyester.

Claim 21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim ¹³~~23~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat having a composite sheet structure comprising:

a top fabric layer;

a non-slip backing layer;

a part of the top fabric layer able to be joined to the non-slip backing layer while allowing the top fabric layer of the resultant mat to be absorbent;

the non-slip backing layer is formed from a nitrile rubber in the range of less than 2 mm thick with a density weight per unit area of about 1000 -1200 grams per square meter and curable at temperatures greater than 100°C such that the mat is able to be laundered in hot water;

the top fabric layer being a knitted polyester fabric which when combined with the non-slip backing layer forms providing a top liquid absorbent textile of less than 4 millimetres which is continuous and consistent and maintains relative position for printing a detailed image thereon and maintaining position to display the detailed image.

Claim ¹⁴~~24~~ (previously presented): The mat according to claim ¹³~~23~~ with the non-slip backing layer being curable at temperatures greater than 170°C.

Claim ¹⁵~~25~~ (previously presented): The mat according to claim ¹⁴~~24~~, wherein the top fabric layer includes a polyester surface.

Claim ¹⁶~~26~~ (previously presented): The mat according to claim ¹⁴~~24~~, wherein the top fabric layer includes a polyester surface.

Claim 27 (canceled).

Claim ¹⁷~~28~~ (currently amended): A table or counter mat comprising, in combination: a non-slip backing layer; and a top liquid absorbent polyester textile layer joined to the non-slip backing layer to form a composite sheet structure which is readily able to be laundered, with the top liquid absorbent textile layer having a density weight per unit area of about 200 to 600 grams per square meter to stably support cups, mugs or glasses, to absorb any spilled liquid from

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the cups, mugs or glasses supported thereon, and to provide a message communication covering with clarity.

¹⁸
Claim ~~29~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~28~~¹⁷ with the non-slip backing layer having a thickness, with the top liquid absorbent textile layer having a height, with a ratio of the height of the top liquid absorbent textile layer to the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 10 to 1.

¹⁸
Claim ~~30~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~29~~¹⁸ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being less than about 2 mm.

²⁰
Claim ~~31~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~30~~¹⁹ with the top liquid absorbent textile layer being a tufted synthetic yarn cut pile surface with a pile height of about 6 mm and a pile weight of about 600-620 grams per square meter.

²¹
Claim ~~32~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~31~~²⁰ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 1 mm.

²³
Claim ~~33~~ (currently amended): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~32~~²¹ with the non-slip backing layer is formed from rubber having a density weight per unit area of about 1000 grams per square meter.

²³
Claim ~~34~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~33~~²² further comprising, in combination: an intermediate stabilization layer joining the non-slip backing layer to the top liquid absorbent textile layer.

²⁴
Claim ~~35~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~34~~²³ with the intermediate stabilization layer formed of synthetic thermally bonded non-woven fabric.

²⁵
Claim ~~36~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~35~~²⁴ with the intermediate stabilization layer having a density of 110 grams per square meter and a tensile strength of 190 Newtons per 5 cm with a maximum elongation of plus 30% and a tear strength of 140 Newtons, with the intermediate stabilization layer formed of a material curable at temperatures greater than 100°C such that the composite sheet structure can be laundered in hot water.

²⁹
Claim ~~37~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~28~~¹⁷ with the top liquid absorbent textile layer being a tufted synthetic yarn cut pile surface with a pile height of about 6 mm and a pile weight of about 600-620 grams per square meter.

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²⁶
Claim ~~38~~ (currently amended): The table or counter mat according to claim ¹⁹~~30~~ with the top liquid absorbent textile layer being a synthetic, scrim supported, fiber needlefelt having a density weight per unit area of about 500 grams per square meter.

²⁶
Claim ~~39~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~38~~ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 1 mm.

²⁷
Claim ~~40~~ (currently amended): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~39~~ with the non-slip backing layer having a density weight per unit area of 1000 grams per square meter.

³⁰
Claim ~~41~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~28~~ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 1 mm.

³¹
Claim ~~42~~ (previously presented): A table or counter mat comprising, in combination: a non-slip backing layer; and a top liquid absorbent textile layer joined to the non-slip backing layer to form a composite sheet structure, with the top layer absorbent textile layer having a height, with the non-slip backing layer having a thickness, with a ratio of the height of the top liquid absorbent textile layer to the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 1 to 1.

³²
Claim ~~43~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~42~~ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being less than about 2 mm.

³³
Claim ~~44~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~42~~ with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being about 1 mm.

³⁴
Claim ~~45~~ (previously presented): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~44~~ with the top liquid absorbent textile layer being a surface with a pile height of about 2 mm.

³⁵
Claim ~~46~~ (previously presented): A table or counter mat according to claim ~~44~~ with the top liquid absorbent textile layer formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimeters.

Claim 47 (canceled).

³⁶
Claim ~~48~~ (currently amended): The table or counter mat comprising, in combination: a non-slip backing layer; and a top layer joined according to claim 47 the non-slip backing layer to form a composite sheet for resting cups, mugs or glasses on the top layer, with the top layer consisting of synthetic textile surface of a high weight per unit area capable of stably supporting such cups, mugs or glasses resting on the top layer and being liquid absorbent to absorb any liquid spilled from such cups, mugs or glasses resting on the top

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layer, with the high density weight per unit area being about 200 to 600 grams per square meter.

37
Claim ~~49~~ (currently amended): The table or counter mat according to claim ~~[[47]]~~ ³⁶ ~~48~~
with the thickness of the non-slip backing layer being less than about 2 mm.



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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
09/486,629	STEPHEN ROBERT CARKEEK	17762-304-(F)

23595
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/AU99/00751

I.A. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
09/10/1999	09/11/1998

CONFIRMATION NO. 8920

371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



OC000000018126517

Date Mailed: 02/23/2006

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

<u>03/01/2000</u>	<u>03/11/2001</u>
DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS	DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Original Specification filed on 03/01/2000
- Drawings filed on 03/01/2000
- Claims filed on 03/01/2000
- Oath or Declaration filed on 03/01/2000
- Initial Application Filing Fees filed on 03/01/2000
- Copy of the International Application filed on 03/01/2000
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 03/01/2000
- Copy of IPE Report filed on 03/01/2000
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 03/01/2000
- Oath or Declaration filed on 03/01/2000

- 
- Small Entity Statement filed on 03/01/2000
 - U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 03/01/2000

The following defects have been observed:

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) for this application is \$-1116 for a small entity.

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

CATHERINE D SHORT
Telephone: (703) 308-9140 EXT 220

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)